

Testimony for Carl Joseph Artman Hearing - February 1, 2007
Submitted by: Gerald L. Danforth, Chairman
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Good morning Chairman Dorgan, Vice-Chairman Thomas and Honorable Committee Members.

My name is Gerald Danforth and I am Chairman of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. I am extremely honored to be here with you today. As you will recall, when Carl Artman first came before this committee in the last congress, other pressing issues precluded my attendance. Today I am privileged to bring you greetings from our nearly 16,000 members who share their pride today as I come forward to express our support and confidence in one of our enrolled members, Carl Artman.

Mr. Artman is a bright and extremely hard-working individual who has a broad and distinguished academic background. For such a young man, he has a wide arrange of skills and broad diversity of experience upon which to draw from in the exercise of his duties as Assistant Secretary of the Interior. It brings me great pride to know that voices of support for Mr. Artman have come from all corners of Indian Country. I am encouraged, as are many other tribal leaders throughout Indian Country as demonstrated at the listening session in Minneapolis this past Saturday, that this committee has moved so expeditiously to fill this critical position - one that has remained vacant for two years. I believe that you will be considering an exceptional candidate.

Carl Artman has earned a Juris Doctorate, an L.L.M. (Master of Laws) and a Master of Business Administration Degree. He is familiar with the legal and economic forces that demand consideration by this office. His experience serving Congressman Oxley and representing our nation in Washington provides him with unique preparation and familiarity with Capital Hill and Indian country. He comes before you with the array of attributes necessary to engage this administration, understand the relationship with Congress, and appreciate the unique and common issues affecting the Indian nations. I believe Mr. Artman's experience thoroughly qualifies him for this position.

Mr. Chairman, in 1976 and again in 1989 this very committee heard testimony regarding the role of our nation in the founding of the United States, the incorporation of many of our governmental concepts into the American constitution, and our commitment to the Colonies in the Revolutionary War . . . commitments that helped found and secure America. Our people's long and proud tradition in support of this country . . . tradition of government of and by the people . . . tradition of leaders as true public servants guides us and certainly guides Carl. It is therefore fitting and proper that an Oneida now comes forward to hold this high post. We believe that Carl Artman will do so with honor and distinction.